



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: March 13, 2019
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY

NEW PAVEMENT, IMPROVED SAFETY, UPGRADED DRAINAGE SYSTEMS COMING TO MERCED COUNTY SPRING AND SUMMER 2019

MERCED COUNTY – The 2019 construction season is here and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is ready to go.

Caltrans is breaking ground on several projects this spring in Merced County that will provide new pavement, improve traffic safety, and upgrade drainage systems.

The below five projects are scheduled to begin by June 2019. These are taking place on State Route 59 (SR-59), SR-140 and SR-152, and Interstate 5 (I-5):

I-5 Repaving – Fresno County Line to SR-152

This estimated \$12.1 million project will repave 68 lane miles of I-5 – from the Fresno County line to SR-152 near Los Banos. I-5 in Merced County is a critical passageway for commercial traffic (including the county's agricultural industry), commuters and local residents. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-April and end in early November.



SR-59 and SR-140 Culvert and Drainage Repair

This estimated \$390,000 project will replace culverts (underground drainage systems) in four locations – near Sandy Mush Road and the Merced River bridge on SR-59 and near Los Banos Creek in Gustine and the Le Grand Canal on SR-140. Upgrading culverts keeps roadways clear and motorists safe by mitigating potential flooding events due to rainstorms. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-May and conclude in August.

I-5 and SR-152 Bridges – Seismic Retrofitting

This estimated \$5.5 million project is part of Caltrans' seismic retrofit program, which means the bridges (three bridges along the California Aqueduct in Merced and Stanislaus counties) will be brought up to current structural standards to prevent catastrophic damage during future earthquakes. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-May and conclude in spring 2020.



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SR-152 Re-striping Throughout Merced County

This estimated \$4.6 million project will re-stripe all of SR-152 in Merced County – from the Santa Clara County line to the Madera County line. Re-striping the roadway includes increasing the striping size from 4 to 6 inches and using a new reflective material that enhances visibility – especially during nighttime and wet weather conditions. Construction is scheduled to begin in early April and conclude in August.

SR-59 Intersection Improvements at Olive Avenue/Santa Fe Drive

This estimated \$5.7 million project will enhance the intersection of northbound and southbound SR-59 and Olive Avenue/Santa Fe Drive in Merced to improve traffic safety for motorists. Planned construction activities include widening the intersection to install curb ramps and a crosswalk; installing new signals to improve timing; and the extension of turning lanes to avoid lengthy traffic backups. Construction is scheduled to begin in April and conclude in September.

More information and updates on projects can be found at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/d10/projects.html> or on Twitter via [@CaltransDist10](https://twitter.com/CaltransDist10). There are 757 ongoing construction contracts statewide as of early February 2019 valued at more than \$8.9 billion. These projects are improving safety, reducing congestion and creating tens of thousands of jobs for Californians.

Work is scheduled to begin as listed, but is subject to change due to traffic incidents, weather, availability of equipment and/or materials and other issues.

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For the safety of workers and other motorists, please Be Work Zone Alert.

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